THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to ICMR, Research work on this issue has been published in various international journals. The main symptoms found in these studies relate to exaggeration of the residual refractive errors and convergence deficiencies. It also result in symptoms like redness of eye etc. Computer users may take precautions as advised by the treating physicians to avoid possible ill effects.

Amount spent on the Treatment of Ex-Prime Ministers/Ministers in Foreign Countries

2901. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable amount of money has been spent for the treatment of Ex-Prime Ministers/Ministers in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on this account for the last three years, individually, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the treatment sought abroad is available in our own country and with better efficacy; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that other allied expenses are also met by Government while the VVIP is abroad?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Nursing Colleges in HP

2902. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nursing Colleges functioning at present in the State of Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to set up any new nursing college specially for those living in far-flung areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) as per information furnished by the Indian Nursing Council, at present there is no Nursing College in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) No proposal has been received by the Indian Nursing Council from Government of Himachal Pradesh to set up any new Nursing College in the State.

Ban on Smoking in Public Places

2903. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a ban on smoking in public places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban Tobacco which is the biggest killer and is the cause of oral cancer in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has introduced a comprehensive legislation in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001, for discouraging use of tobacco and its products. The salient features of the Bill, inter-alia, include prohibition of smoking in public places, ban on sale of tobacco products to minors and ban on its advertisement. The Bill is under consideration of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.

Use of synthetic substances in Dabur Honey

2904. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dabur Honey has been reported to be containing synthetic substances;

(b) if so, whether the inclusion of these synthetic substances is permissible in the Ayurvedic pharmacopoeia and not detrimental to human health; and